

### **Bulletin Article #5 = "Glory to God in the Highest..."**

Many young parents, as they are experiencing both the joys and the tremendous effort and sacrifice involved in raising young children, will decide to call their parents to try to express what they may have taken for granted throughout their childhood. How do you express thanksgiving and honor to someone who not only brought you into this world, but spent so much energy and time and effort to feed you, to keep you healthy, to teach you, to change your diapers, and so many other things!? We can try to express it with our words, but often the right words fail us and we simply say, thank you. During the Mass, we are trying our best to thank and praise and honor God in the proper way. What can we possibly say to God who created everything (including our souls), out of nothing and for Himself in a relationship of love? Who not only created us, but guides us with grace and Divine Revelation, and who ultimately became a man in Jesus Christ, in order to save us from our sins, heal and transform us in His image, and lift us up to eternal life in heaven! Our best attempt at the beginning of the Mass is to sing the hymn that is inspired by the songs of the angels to the shepherds in the field near Bethlehem as they announced the birth of Jesus at Christmas (Luke 2:14). The rest of the "Gloria" hymn is soaked with Scripture; it includes God's many titles such as Lord (Rev. 4:8, 19:6), Almighty Father (Ex. 6:3, Bar. 3:1), and Heavenly King (Ps 95:3), God's being as three persons in one divine nature, and the very flow of this song is Jesus' Cross, Death, and Resurrection as the Lamb of God and seated now at the Right Hand of the Father (Rev. 5:6, 12:11)! We can't possibly express our gratitude for all that God has done and all he is giving us right this moment, but we can try by saying or singing the "Gloria" hymn during Mass. Let us pray this hymn with our hearts, and join the angels in saying to God in so many words, thank you.